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ARTICLES

Eccleſiaſticall to be enquired of by the Church-wardens, and Sworne-men of the Arch-deaconry of HEREFORD.

In the Viſitation of the Worſhipfull Maſter RICHARD MONTAGVE, Arch-deacon of Hereford this preſent yeare 1620.

And in the eighteenth yeare of the raigne of our *moſt dread Soueraigne Lord King* IAMES.

LONDON
Printed by IOHN BILL,
1620.

The Oath.

YOV ſhall ſweare by the great Name of Almighty GOD, That you ſhall diligently conſider of al and euery the Articles following, giuen to you in charge, and make a true anſwere to euery of the ſame, ſeuerally and diſtinctly in writing, preſenting all, and euery ſuch perſon and perſons of your Pariſh and others, as haue within your Pariſh, or elſewhere, committed any offence or fault, or made any default mentioned in any of the ſaid Articles, or which are vehemently ſuſpected or defamed for any ſuch offence or fault: Wherein yee ſhall not vnduely preſent any perſon or perſons, of euill will, malice, hatred, or any corrupt affection: nor ſhall for loue, fauour, meede, or dread, or any other corrupt affection, ſpare to preſent any that bee offenders, ſuſpected or defamed in any of theſe caſes, but ſhall doe vprightly, as men hauing the feare of God before your eyes, and deſirous to maintaine vertue, and ſuppreſſe vice. So helpe you God by Chriſt Ieſus.

FIrſt, you ſhall enquire, and truely preſent vpon your oathes taken, whether any perſon whatſoeuer doth maintaine or defend any hereſies, falſe opinions, or popiſh errours, contrary to the Word of God, and contrary to the Articles of Religion eſtabliſhed in this Realme.

2 Secondly, whether any perſon be an impugner or deprauer, either in word or writing of the ſame of Eccleſiaſticall gouernement of this Church of England, or hath ſpoken in derogation of the booke of Common prayer, or the rites and ceremonies preſcribed to be vſed, either in the ſeruice of God, or adminiſtration of the Sacraments, or againſt any of the Articles agreed vpon, Anno 1562. or againſt the Kinges ſupremacie in cauſes Eccleſiaſticall, or againſt the Oath of ſupremacie or alleageance, as pretending the ſame to be not lawfull nor warrantable by the Word of God

3 Whether any perſon hath thruſt himſelfe into any Eccleſiaſticall function, without an ordinary calling, as to read publike Seruice in Church or Chappell, not being lawfully ordered Deacon at the leaſt.

4 Whether your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, preſume to preach, not being lawfully licenſed, and whether any be admitted to preach in their Cures not licenſed accordingly.

5 Whether your Parſon or Vicar be knowen, ſuſpected, or probably reported to haue obtained his Benefice by any Simoniall compact, made either by himſelfe or others, directly, or indirectly, or doe let out his liuing to farme, or any part thereof, to any perſon in conſideration of any ſuch compact: and whether the Patron hath beſtowed the Benefice of the incumbent freely or by Simony.

6 Whether you haue had a Sermon preached euery Sabboth day this laſt yere: if not, yet how many haue you had, and vpon thoſe Sundayes that you had not a Sermon, haue you had a Homily read.

7 Whether there be a booke kept according to the Canon wherein euery Preacher that commeth from any other place both

subscribe his name, the day when he preached, the name of the Bishop of whom he had licence to preach, what bee the names of those which preached the peere past, and upon what dayes?

8 Whether your Minister upon every Sunday in the afternoone before Euening Prayer, doth call for, instruct, and examine all the youth, and ignorant persons of your Parish of both Sexes, in the Catechisme and grounds of Christian Religion: whether doth hee admitte any person to the Lords Supper before he hath examined them, and found them able to say the Catechisme?

9 Whether bee there any Parents, Maisters, or Gouernours, who send not their children and seruants to be catechized on euery Sabbath day, or any children or seruants that refuse to bee instructed or examined?

10 Whether your Minister doth bestow his time in the study of the holy Scriptures, for the increase of his knowledge, and profiting of his Parishioners, or otherwise neglecting his calling, betake himselfe to worldly affaires, mercenary or manuall trades haunt markets: intermeddeth or solliciteth matters of law for other men?

11 Whether is your Minister suspected of any notorious crime, or any euill example of life, to the offence and scandall of his vocation: is he a peace-maker among his Parishioners, and no sower of discord?

12 Whether doth your Minister vse or weare any kind of apparell, which is excessiue for the place, or vnseeming his calling, for colour or fashion of the same, or otherwise then according to the 74 Canon: or doth vse to haunt and frequent, or liue in any Tauernes or Alehouses, or keepe or suffer to be kept any Tauerne, Alehouse, or Victualling house in his Parsonage or Vicaredge house?

13 Whether doth your Minister keepe any suspected woman in his house, or ~~being married, doth hee keepe any woman in his house, whereas not either his mother, or his sister, or neere kinswoman?~~

14 Whether doth your Minister vsually weare the Surplesse in time of diuine Seruice: whether hath hee subscribed to the booke of the manner of Gods worship in the Church of England, prescribed

preſcribed in the [redacted] Booke, and to the three Articles mentioned in the 36. Canon.

15 Whether doe you know of any within your Pariſh that are maintainers or procurers of Schiſmes or ſchiſmaticall aſſemblies, or of meetings, conuenticles, aſſemblies, or congregations of the Kings borne ſubiects, other then ſuch as by the Canons and Lawes Eccleſiaſticall of this Realme are allowed?

19 Whether doth your Miniſter vſe any other forme of Common prayer then is preſcribed in the Booke of Common prayer? Whether doth hee follow the directions of the ſame, and vſe ſuch Rites and Ceremonies in Seruice and adminiſtration of the Sacraments, as by the ſaid Booke are required, and none other?

17 Whether your Miniſter admitteth to the Communion any notorious offender, adulterer, fornicatour, or inceſtuous perſon, which hath not firſt done his penance, or any malicious perſon, who is notoriouſly knowen to be out of charitie, or any excommunicated perſon, or any ſtranger of another Pariſh: and hath your Miniſter preſently vpon the putting backe of any ſuch offender certified the cauſe to the Ordinarie?

18 Whether hath any been maried within your Pariſh by your Miniſter, or any other, that haue not vpon the day of their marriage receiued the holy Communion, or any beene married in priuate houſes, or in times prohibited, or without banes ſolemnely aſked three ſeuerall Sundayes, otherwiſe then by licence of the Ordinarie: or hath your Miniſter vſed the forme of thankeſgiuing preſcribed for women after child-birth for any woman vnlawfully begotten with child, otherwiſe then in the habit of a penitent ſinner, or before ſufficient caution bee taken for her, not departing the Pariſh vntill ſhee hath done penance for her offence?

19 Whether your Parſon, Preacher, Lecturer, or Curat, doth not in his owne perſon at the leaſt twice in euery yeere, vpon two Sundayes publikely, both in the forenoone and afternoone in your Church or Chappell, reade himſelfe the Diuine Seruice, and alſo as often in euery yeere adminiſter both the Sacraments in ſuch manner and forme, and with the obſeruation of all ſuch Rites and Ceremonies as are preſcribed by the booke of Common prayer, according to the 56. Canon.

20 Whether your Miniſter doeth daily viſit the ſicke, and [illegible]

[illegible] them truely to beleeue in Christ, [illegible] them of their sins, and comfort them out of Gods Word, in the doubts and distresses of their consciences, and pray for them, as is prescribed in the booke of Common prayer?

21 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Farmer of the tithes, doth suffer either the Parsonage, or Vicarage house, or other buildings thereto belonging, or Chancell to fall to ruine or decay, and doth not presently repaire them, or whether he or any other hath taken away or vncouered any Church, Chappell or Chancell, or any part of them, or any Church-porch, Vestry, or Almes house, or hath pulled downe the Belles, or made any other spoile or waste vpon his Benefice, either in timber or woods, or selling trees in the Church-yard?

22 Whether is your Church euery way sufficiently and well repaired, and no defect in glazing, tiling, seeling, pauing, or in any thing else belonging to the same: and is your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with wall, raile, pale, or such other fence as hath been accustomed?

23 Whether haue you in your parish Church or Chappell, the new booke of Common prayer, two Psalters, the whole Bible in English of the largest volume, lately set forth by his Maiesties authoritie, the two volumes of Homilies, the table of ten Commandaments, whole and vntorne, the table of degrees of consanguinitie and affinitie, a conuenient Pulpit, a fit seat for your Minister, a decent Communion Table vpon a frame, a linnen cloth to couer it, with some other couer of silke or such like, a Communion cup of siluer, and couer of the same, a cleane sweet standing pot, or stoope of pewter, or other purer mettall to put in the wine, for the vse of the Communion, a sufficient Font well couered, a decent Surplesse with large sleeues, a sure coffer with three lockes for the Register booke, a strong Chest for the Almes-boxe, with three lockes thereto, and haue your Minister and Church-wardens seuerall keyes to those Coffers, according to the 90. Canon?

24 Whether doth your Minister and Church-wardens euery Sunday after Euening Prayer take the Register Booke, and then Register the names of all those who are Christened, maried, or buried the weeke before, and is the same a faire booke of parchment, and safely kept vnder locke and keyes, and whether any doe serue

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as a Curate or Deacon, ~~not~~ licenced vnder the Ordinaries ſeale, or ſerue two Cures, or not in due time, and what ſtipend hath your Curate by yeere?

25 Whether your Miniſter hath publiſhed and executed all ſuch Proceſſes as haue beene directed vnto him from the Lord Biſhop or his Chancellour, and whether hee hath duely made Certificates thereof, or of penance orderly and penitently, or done at other times, or in other ſort then was preſcribed, or not done at all?

26 Whether hath your Parſon or Vicar moe Benefices then one, how many, and in what places they be, and what be the names and values of them, and whether hee is abſent from among you about 80. dayes in any one yeere in all, and how many miles are his Benefices diſtant: whether he doth keepe hoſpitalitie amongſt you at his liuing ſome part of the yeere, and how long: and if hee hath two Benefices, hath hee a preaching Curate on that Benefice whereon he doth not reſide?

27 Whether hath your Parſon or Vicar let any leaſe or grant of his Parſonage or Vicarage, or any part thereof, to whom hath he let the ſame, and for how long?

28 Whether your Clarke being aged 20. yeeres at leaſt, be approued by the Ordinary, and haue taken an Oath as in ſuch caſes is required: is he able to read diſtinctly, and to anſwere as appertaineth to his office in the Church, and vſeth diligence in keeping the Church, the Chancell, Communion Table, Font, Bookes, ornaments of the Church, and all ſuch things as belong to his charge, ſafe, decent and cleane?

29 Whether is there any Schoole-maſter teaching either openly or in any Nobleman or Gentlemans houſe in your pariſh, or any perſon who practiſeth Phyſicke or ſurgery, not being lawfully licenced?

30 Whether haue any Lords of miſrule, daunters, players, or any other diſguiſed perſon, beene ſuffered to enter into the Church or Chappell with games or dances, to the prophaning of Gods houſe, or into the Church-yards eſpecially in time of diuine Seruice: and if they haue, what bee the names of ſuch diſordered perſons?

31 Whether there bee any vnlawfull or prophane exerciſes

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ere vpon the Sabboth day, and who gaue them license, whether any doe vse dancing or such like sports or recreations on the Sabboth day before the end of all diuine Seruice appointed for that day contrary to his Maiesties declaration in that behalfe: whether be there any common drinkings in the Church, and who were present at such drinkings, or sports, or any that doe sit in Tauernes or Alehouses or Streets, vpon Sundayes or Holy-dayes, in the time of Morning or Euening prayer?

2. Whether bee there any in your Parish that vse any handy-craft, or worke, or which keepe open shop for sale of wares vpon any Sabboth or Festiuall daye, or which in time of harueſt, vpon such dayes doe labour about corne, hay, or any such businesse: or whether there be any that hunt and hawke vpon any Sabboth or Festiuall day, or vse any vnlawfull exercises, or any that haue or vse any carriages by Wayne or otherwise vpon any those dayes?

3. Whether there bee in your parish any hinderers of the Diuine Seruice of God, or which doe vse any iangling, talking, walking, or any other vnseemely behauiour in the Church or Churchyard, to disquiet any there present to serue God?

4. Whether doth your Minister giue warning afore hand to his Parishioners for receiuing of the Communion, as the 22. Canon requireth, and are there any within your parish that doe not frequent Diuine Seruice, or any which are of conuenient age, that doe not communicate in the Lords Supper thrise in euery yeere at the least, and thereof once at Easter, or receiue Seminary Priests or other seducers into their houses? And whether there bee any strangers that sojourne in your Parish, especially about Easter, and doe absent themselues from Church, or any that bee hinderers or deriders of true Religion, or of those which professe it, what are their names and surnames?

5. Whether your Churchwardens haue beene diligent themselues in frequenting Diuine Seruice, and doing their office, and haue duely giuen account at the yeeres end of the goods and rents of the Church, without detaining any in their hands, or not distributed the publike almes indifferently?

6. Whether when any man or woman is passing out of this life, the bell bee tolled, to giue warning to the people to pray for

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the ſicke perſon: if not, in whoſe default. And whether at the death or buriall of any perſon, there bee any more ringing of bels, then one peale before the buriall, and another after, or any ringing at all in time of Common Prayer, preaching, or reading of homilies?

37 Whether any perſon in your Parish hath remained excommunicate by the ſpace of fortie dayes, and whether any ſuch doe intrude himſelfe vnto Diuine Seruice, the Sacraments, or publike aſſemblies, and who are encouragers, or keepers of company with ſuch as ſo remaine excommunicate, or doe keepe any excommunicate perſon in their houſes, or ſet them to worke: or whether any excommunicate Recuſant or other obſtinate excommunicants haue beene buried in Church or Church-yard within your Parish, and by whom were any ſuch buried, and who were preſent?

38 Whether any be knowne or ſuſpected to be adulterers, fornicators, inceſtuous perſons, bawdes, or receptors of incontinent perſons into their houſes, or which conuey or ſuffer them to goe away before they doe make ſatisfaction to the congregation: or any that heeretofore hauing beene preſented of any of the aforeſaid crimes, haue for that cauſe departed your Parish, and are now returned againe?

39 Whether there be any blaſphemers of the Name of God, or ſwearers among you?

40 Whether there bee any that brawle, raile, or fight in the Church or Church-yard?

41 Whether there bee any drunkards, ribalds, malicious, contentious and vncharitable perſons, common ſlanderers, railers, ſcolders, or ſowers of diſcord among you?

42 Whether any perſon in your Parish bee knowne or reputed to vſe any witchcraft, ſorcery, charme, inchantment, or vntawfull inuocation, or any that doe take vpon them to tell deſtinies, or to guide men to things loſt, or any that reſorteth vnto ſuch for helpe and counſel?

43 Whether haue there beene any children borne in your Parish, which haue not beene brought to bee baptized in your Parish Church, but haue beene baptized at home, either by ſome Mini-

...Priest, Lay person or Midwife, and what is the name of that Priest, Lay person, or Midwife, or any of the children of Recusants or of sojourners with Recusants, which have had their baptisme deferred longer then the next Sabbath day, or which remaine as yet unbaptized, and whose are those children?

44 Whether have any beene admitted to bee Godfather or Godmother to any childe in your parish, which before that time have not received the holy Communion: and whether any receive the holy Communion otherwise then most reverently and humbly kneeling upon their knees?

45 Whether doe you know any person married within the degrees of consanguinitie or affinitie by the law of God forbidden: or any persons divorced lawfully, which company together: or any persons lawfully married, which have contrary to law forsaken their wives, or husbands, or live not together: or any married being formerly precontracted to others: or any which have married without consent of their parents or otherwise then betweene the houres of eight or twelve of the clocke in the forenoone?

46 Whether doe you know any person formerly presented, which hath not beene enjoyned penance, or any enjoyned by law to doe penance, who either hath not done it, or not penitently, but scornfully, and not in forme, habite, and time prescribed: or any that have laughed or scorned at those who have done their penance, and what be their names.

47 Whether any Hospitall or Almes-house bee either pulled downe, or growne to decay, whether the number of poore and impotent persons that were appointed by the founders, are there relieved or maintained: and if not, in whose default: or any lands or legacies given to such or other godly uses, which are not employed accordingly?

48 Whether doe you know any person within your parish, who directly or indirectly taketh usurie or interest for money lent, contrary to the lawes of God and this Realme, who are they, and what is the manner of their usury?

49 Whether doe you know any person, who being named Executor of any last Will and Testament, doth presume to execute or deale with the goods of the Testator before the Will bee proved

produced, or Administrators before the Administration is committed vnto them, or any hinderers of the performance of such Will, or any forgers or changers of such Will, or any Executor which hath not fulfilled the Testators Will, in not payment of legacies to good and godly vses?

50 Whether haue your Church-Wardens solde or alienated any of the Church goods, who they be, and to whom?

51 Whether hath any Church-Warden or Swornemen at any time concealed any disorder, crime, or fame of any crime, and not presented the same to be reformed?

52 Whether for the retaining of the circuit and limits of your parish, your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, Church Wardens, and certaine of the substantiall and chiefe men of your parish, in the dayes of perambulation, commonly called the Rogation, walke and compasse the accustomed bounds of your parish: and whether in the said perambulation, the Minister doth vse any other rite or ceremony, then to say or sing to the prayse of God, some Psalme of Dauid of thanksgiuing, as the hundred and third Psalme, or hundred and fourth, with the common Letany and prayers following the same, or reading some part of holy Scripture or Homilie, wearing the Surplesse, and without carrying baduers, or hand-bels, or making stay at crosses, or such like popish obseruations?

53 Whether haue your Church-Wardens from time to time leuied twelue pence for euery day, of those who absent themselues from Church, according to the Statute: and whether hath the same beene bestowed vpon the poore as it ought or no, what are the names of them who haue so absented themselues, and when haue they beene so absent: and whether doth your Minister admonish the Church-Wardens openly in the Church, after the second Lesson, at Morning and Euening prayer, to looke to their charge in that behalfe?

54 What Recusants Papists are there in your parish? present their names, qualities and conditions, how long haue the said popish Recusants abstained from diuine Seruice, or from the Communion? Doe any of the sayd Recusants labour to seduce and withdraw others from the Religion now established and doe

they instruct their families and children in popish Religion, or doe any of them keepe any Ornaments of superstition undefaced?

55 Whether any of your Parish who heretofore being popish Recusants, haue sithence reformed themselues, and come to Church to heare Diuine Seruice, and receiue the Sacraments: if yea, then who are they, and how long sithence haue they so conformed themselues, and whether doe they still remaine and abide in the same conformitie: and is there a Booke prouided in your Parish to register the names of all such Recusants who so conforme and submitte themselues, according to the Statute 35 Eliza.

56 Whether haue you a terrier of all the gleable lands, meadowes, gardens, orchards, houses, locke, implements, tenements, and portions of tithes (both within your Parish and without) belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, taken by the view of honest men in your said Parish: and whether the same terrier be layd vp in the Bishops Register, and in whose hands any of them are now. And if you haue no terrier already made in parchment, you the Church-Wardens and Sidemen, together with your Parson Vicar, or in his absence with your Minister, are to make diligent inquiry and presentment of the premisses, and make, subscribe, and signe the sayd terrier as aforesayd?

57 And generally, whether doe you know any of the Lawes Ecclesiasticall violated or broken, or any other Ecclesiasticall matter worthy of redresse: and if you doe, present the same: And in all your presentments, as neere as possible you may, note the yeere and the moneth of euery offence committed?

58 Whether doth your Minister vpon Wednesdayes and Fridayes, not being Holy dayes, reade in your Church or Chappell publickely the Litany and other Prayers appointed in the booke of common Prayer for those dayes, and whether doth hee reade the Comminations against sinners, in such order and forme as is there also prescribed?

59 Whether doth your Minister vpon some Sundayes or Holy dayes, in the afternoone, before Diuine Seruice, reade ouer once euery yeere all the Canons Ecclesiasticall, published

by

by his Maieſties authority, Ann. 1603. publikely in your Church or Chappell where he ſerueth?

60 Whether doth your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, keepe a iuſt and perfect note of all ſuch as doe communicate in your Pariſh, or certifie as Communicants thoſe who neuer receiued?

61 Whether your Miniſter doe refuſe or delay, to chriſten any childe brought to bee chriſtened vpon Sundayes and Holy dates, according to the booke of Common Prayer, or being intreated in his weakeneſſe or danger of death, doe refuſe to goe to the ſayde place, where the ſayd Infant remaineth to baptize it?

62 Whether there haue growen in your Pariſh, ſince the laſt Viſitation, or before, which is not preſented, any contention betwixt any of the Pariſhoners, touching the placing or diſplacing of any, in any Seate or Pewe in the Church: And whether there hath beene any Pewe builded ſince the foreſayd time in any your Churches, without expreſſe leaue and conſent firſt had of the Ordinarie of the Diocеſſe, and by whom haue any ſuch beene built?

63 Whether there be any Inne-keepers, Ale-wiues, Victuallers, or Tipplers, that ſuffer, or doe admit any perſon or perſons in their houſes, to eate, drinke, or play, at Dice, Cards, Tables, Bowles, or ſuch like games, in the time of Common Prayer or Sermon on Sundayes or holydaies, or any Butchers or other that commonly vſe to ſell meate, or other things in the time of Common Prayer, preaching, or reading of homilies and whether in any Faires or common Markets falling vpon the Sundayes, there be ſhewing of any wares before morning Prayer bee done; and whether any markets or ſelling of wares bee vſed or ſuffered in any Church-yards on the Sabboth dayes, by common Packemen, or Pedlers going about, ~~or any Butchers~~?

64 Whether the former Church-Wardens, or Swornemen haue of any priuate or corrupt affection, concealed any crime or other diſorder in their time done in your Pariſh, and haue not preſented the ſame: And whether they, or any of them, at any ſuch time, as they ſhould haue beene at Diuine Seruice on Sundayes or holydayes, and ſhould there haue obſerued others that were abſent, haue beene aware themſelues and at home, or

in ſome Tauerne or Ale-houſe, or elſe about ſome worldly buſines, or at Bowles, Cardes, Tables, Dice, or other games, without regard of their office and dutey in that behalfe?

65 Whether any notorious Recuſant, who hath beene denounced excommunicated for his diſobedience and contempt therein, or any other perſon, who hath for ſome grieuous and notorious crime beene denounced excommunicated, and died excommunicate were buried in Chriſtian buriall, not hauing before his death ſought to be abſolued, and teſtified the ſame his ſubmiſſion to ſome honeſt and diſcreet man, who ſhal vpon his oath ſignifie to the Ordinarie before whom he was excommunicated for his abſolution.

FINIS.